

# 2021 Select Recreational Fishing Regulations

May 2021



**Atlantic Croaker**

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



**Spot**

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



**Kingfish**

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: No bag limit



**Grey Trout (Weakfish)**

- Minimum Size Limit: 12 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person



**Bluefish**

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person from shore or a rented or private vessel
- 5 per person on for-hire or charter vessels



**Spanish Mackerel**

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person



**King Mackerel**

- Minimum Size Limit: 27 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



**Cobia (Permit Required)**

- Minimum Size Limit: 40 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive. Only 1 fish per vessel may be greater than 50 inches total length.
- Season: June 15 - September 15



**Summer Flounder**

- Minimum Size Limit: 16.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



**Striped Bass**

Any person fishing striped bass recreationally shall use non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing with bait.

Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

- Size Limit: 20-28 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 20-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: January 1 - March 31, May 16 - December 31

**Select species provided for information purposes only. Not all regulated species are included. All regulations are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all current regulations and laws. Check for new regulations before you go fishing.**  
**[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)**



**Spadefish**

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



**Sheepshead**

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



**Black Sea Bass**

- Minimum Size Limit: 12.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person
- Season: Feb. 1 - Feb. 28 (Permit Required)  
May 15 - May 31, June 16 - Dec 31



**Tautog**

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person
- Season: January 1-May 15, July 1- Dec. 31



**Speckled Trout**

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 5 per person, only 1 greater than 24"



**Red Drum**

- Minimum Size Limit: 18 inches
- Maximum Size Limit: 26 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



**Black Drum**

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person